(c) whether any concrete steps in this regard has been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (d) The Government has invited applications from public and private sector companies for allocation of coal blocks for Coal to Liquid project. In response to the advertisement, 28 applications were received from 22 applicants. The scrutiny and evaluation of these applications is under progress.

(e) As it requires detailed scrutiny and evaluation, no time frame for final decision can be given at this stage.

**Coal mines of the country**

†1096. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sufficient quantity of coal in coal mines in the country to meet the need of power plants;

(b) whether there has been decline in the production of coal in coal mines;

(c) the quantum of coal produced in the country during the year 2007-08;

(d) whether the measures taken by Government to curb the coal pilferage have been successful; and

(e) the number of gangs caught for pilfering coal in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) In the process of formulation of Annual Plan, Ministry of Coal/Planning Commission assesses demand of coal of different sectors including power stations. Based on such demand, coal supply plan for the country is formulated by Ministry of Coal/Planning Commission. For the current fiscal, the national demand for utility sector is assessed at 373 million tonnes which includes 8 million tonnes of coal for stock building. Against this demand supply plan of 336.69 million tonnes has been made from the indigenous sources as under:

| Source | Supply plan (In million tonnes) |
|---|---|
| Coal India Limited | 292.93 |
| Singereni Collieries Co. Ltd. | 28.88 |
| Others (Captive sources of TPSs) | 14.88 |
| TOTAL | 336.69 |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Thus there is a gap of 36.31 million tonnes between requirement and indigenous availability as has been envisaged at the planning stage for the current fiscal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The coal production in the country during 2007-2008 was 456.37 million tonnes (prov.)

(d) Law and Order is a State subject, hence primarily it is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb theft/pilferage of coal. However, coal companies have taken the following steps to check/theft pilferage of coal.

(i) Check Posts have been established at the vulnerable points.

(ii) Wall fencing, light arrangements and deployment of armed guards round the clock has been done around the coal dumping yard.

(iii) Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including Overburden (OB) dumps.

(iv) Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.

(v) Inter-action and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meeting with District Collector and District Administration.

(vi) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to check pilferage.

(vii) Regular FIRs are lodged by the management of the collieries and CISF with local Thana against the pilferage/theft of coal. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being maintained by CISF.

(viii) Management has been taking action for filling/dozing/sealing/blasting of the old/abandoned exposed coalfaces in a phased manner.

(e) Theft/pilferage of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. However, as per raids conducted by security personnel of concerned subsidiary coal companies of CIL as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, the FIR lodged and arrests made in case of theft/pilferage of coal during 2006-07 and 2007-08 in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are as under:-

| State | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | FIRs lodged | Arrests made | FIRs lodged | Arrests made |
| Madhya Pradesh | 28 | 45 | 26 | 46 |
| Chhattisgarh | 16 | 16 | 19 | 9 |
| Jharkhand | 110 | 57 | 105 | 63 |